

Missourian SportsWeek

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Family thankful for hospice as mother chooses Death at home

By Linda Stelter
Missourian staff writer

Almost a year has passed since the mother of Judy Richards and Jane Pemberton died. When she died thankfulness ran deeper than grief.

Pauline V. Mathis left the world in familiar surroundings. She died at home, in her bedroom, quietly. No tubes, no starched sheets, no white walls, no blurred visions of endless treatments she could have received for her cancer.

Mrs. Mathis died with dignity. Hospice care let her achieve this, her daughters say.

Perhaps, they admit, her life could have been prolonged 10, maybe 20 years. She was 72 in August when she died. Her father had battled cancer until he was 96, and her mother lived to be 92. But Mrs. Mathis, a strong, determined woman, did not choose to die that way.

As her cancer progressed, she was unable to do the things she always had enjoyed — playing bridge with friends, reading and cooking. Her alternative was taking medication that constantly made her sick. "I'd rather be dead," she told her daughters.

In March 1983, she made the decision and prepared for her own ritual of death — one that would take place outside of hospital care.

She was hardly a stranger to death in the home. She had taken 24-hour-a-day care of her husband at home.

Both daughters were nearby when their father died, and the emotional toll, they say, was great. Judy and Jane did not want to endure such an ordeal again. Their guilt, they say, was enormous at times. Feelings of inadequacy and helplessness augmented the guilt.

"When he died, the ambulance people came and tramped through the house, took him out with tubes trailing and actually tried to revive him," Judy recalls. "He was all uncovered. It was undignified in every way."

Faced with the impending death of their mother, the daughters decided to inquire about hospice care in Columbia.

Mary Kaye Doyle, director of the John Walters Hospice program at Ellis Fischel State Cancer Center, says the hospice approach is a team effort of caring for patients and their families. It is for the ill who have six months or less to live.

"We want to treat the patient until all hope is gone," James Reynolds of Ellis Fischel says.

"However, the important issue is when to stop treatments and begin hospice care.



Judy Richards, left, and her sister, Jane Pemberton, with a photograph of their mother at age 16.

Ideally, hospice treatment should begin when a life-threatening disease strikes. Then it should be built upon each day and during the following weeks. If the problem recedes, nothing is lost. But if the disease accelerates, then the process is already begun," he says.

A major consideration in hospice care is just not the patient but the patient's family, Reynolds says.

"A dying person is generally ready to accept it," Reynolds says. "Hospice helps prepare the family."

Judy and Jane could not agree more. "Without hospice, we never could have done it," Judy says. "Maybe the most important part is the emotional support."

For the daughters who chose hospice care through the Columbia Visiting Nurses Inc., their mother's care started with a visiting nurse who came once a week to check her vital signs and provide medication. In addition, a nurse's aide visited the home three times a week to attend to Mrs. Mathis' personal needs.

"That... in itself was a relief," Judy says. "The responsibility of her well-being was not entirely on us."

She adds, "When you're with her all the time, it's hard to know if she needs something or if you should be doing something and you really don't notice the deterioration."

Even with hospice care, Judy and Jane had their hands full. Mrs. Mathis wanted her daughters near her on a 24-hour basis.

"I think the threat of death, and not necessarily just with older people, makes one become very self-centered, after they make the decision to die with dignity," Jane says.

"She wanted us to sit with her, just sit and be with her most of the time. Even if she didn't need something every minute of the day — she'd still call for somebody."

As time passed, the daughters recall, their mother became irascible, refusing their help but still wanting them to be with her.

She had not been a self-centered person when she was well, yet on the verge of death her personality changed in a dramatic fashion.

"That's part of the problem," Jane says. "They're so unlike themselves, it's hard to deal with emotionally."

Judy says, "She was always so strong,

never sick."

The daughters accommodated their mother's wish that they remain by her side. Judy took the day shift, and Jane, after eight hours at her job, would stay with her mother through the night.

Judy recalls keeping the same sort of vigil at the hospital when their mother underwent an earlier operation. They were both pulling 12-hour shifts in an environment that offered few constructive or creative outlets.

Pointing out that familiar surroundings ease anxiety, Jane says, "She got better care at home than in the hospital."

As their mother's illness grew worse, hospice provided a volunteer, who provided relief to the women. It was, Judy says, "wonderful, just wonderful, to know that someone was coming."

In the beginning, their mother was not thrilled with all the aspects of hospice care. Jean Jacobs, the volunteer, had been told repeatedly by Mrs. Mathis to "quit staring" at her. One day, she decided she did not want

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Kuwait says it will bid to buy arms from USSR

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Kuwait announced Sunday it would send its defense minister to Moscow in a bid to purchase Soviet arms to protect its Persian Gulf oil slapping from attacks in the Iraq-Iran war.

The announcement followed Washington's refusal to supply the Persian Gulf state with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Kuwait has reiterated its policy of procuring defensive weapons from different sources in an open attempt to get the best and most suitable weapons. The Kuwaiti News Agency said in a dispatch monitored in Beirut.

Kuwait wants the arms to defend its oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, where more than 40 neutral vessels have been attacked this year in the nearly 4-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

Several of the tankers were Kuwaiti, believed attacked by Iranian planes in retaliation for Kuwait's support of Iraq.

The announcement that Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Salem would visit Moscow beginning Monday came a day after military commanders of the armed forces of the six Gulf Cooperation Council nations met in Kuwait.

The council, which links Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates in a mutual pact supported by the United States and other Western powers, gathered for talks aimed at coordinating defenses.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister was to remain in Moscow a week, the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, said.

Salem said his visit was in the context of Kuwait's non-aligned policy between the two super-powers. KUNA said. The protection of Gulf security is the responsibility of its inhabitants and this agreed by the GCC in refusal of external intervention.

Kuwait is the only member of the GCC to have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

According to the London's International Institute for Strategic Studies, Kuwait has so far only purchased Soviet FROG-7 missiles, but Kuwait officials said further arms purchases were possible during Salem's visit.

Salem visited Washington in May to request for U.S. Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. The request was turned down by the Reagan administration.

Kuwaiti government sources also said Salem would invite Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to Kuwait later this year.

Kuwait's radical Al Watan newspaper meanwhile, said the Soviet Consul in Kuwait would visit the United Arab Emirates to discuss opening diplomatic ties.

Columbia: no streetwalkers, but some 'questionable' massage parlors

By Geoff Campbell and Michelle Breyer
Missourian staff writers

There is little prostitution in Columbia, but as in any city, the interested can find what they are looking for, says Sgt. Chris Egbert, supervisor of the Columbia Police Department's intelligence bureau.

"Columbia doesn't have any streetwalkers," Egbert says. "Most of the activity occurs in questionable massage parlors."

Egbert notes that a crackdown on massage parlor prostitution in St. Louis has brought an influx of the parlors to Columbia.

"Within the last year, there have been some questionable businesses moving to Columbia," Egbert says.

He cautions, however, against labeling all massage parlors as prostitution dens. "Some of these places are perfectly legitimate businesses."

Egbert explains that there is a circuit for massage parlor women. When there is a police crackdown in one area, the women move to the next parlor on the circuit.

Egbert notes that an investigation in Texas revealed that American servicemen were marrying Korean women, bringing them to the United States and then divorcing them. "They are then put into a circuit," Egbert says.

A variation of massage parlor prostitution is out-call massage

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services, which advertise that a woman will come to the customer, Egbert says.

Prostitutes sometimes work the bars, but this is rare, Egbert says. "Time is money to these people. They go where there are prospects."

These places include hotels, truck stops and gambling houses.

In most instances, the gambling house is the "end of the line" for the prostitute, Egbert says. "It's not a pretty sight." The women are "old and can't work anyplace else."

Egbert says he is unaware of any young women working their way

through school as prostitutes. But he recalls that a number of years ago, some college women got addicted to narcotics. When they had reached dependency and became unable to pay for the drugs, they were forced into pornography and prostitution.

The police have a difficult time conducting investigations of prostitution, Egbert says. "It's really hard. It's sometimes difficult to find a police wife willing to let her husband be directly involved with these type investigations."

"A policeman says, 'Honey, I'm going undercover at the massage parlors tonight,' and there's likely to be trouble," Egbert says.

There are other difficulties, too. "You can't go in and say, 'I'll give you \$200 if you do this or that with me,'" Egbert says. "Everyone has a price, and some people who might not ordinarily do that kind of thing will do it if they're offered enough money."

Such tactics also raise the question of police entrapment.

Typically, the woman will initiate the negotiations. "They usually say something like, 'It will cost you \$50 for this, \$100 for that.' These girls don't have time to mess around," Egbert says.

Tuesday: Interviews with male and female prostitutes.

Crowded prisons Republicans back mandatory terms

By Peter Nugent
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — The two leading Republican gubernatorial candidates are standing firm behind their support for mandatory prison sentences despite dire predictions of severe prison overcrowding from state Corrections Director Lee Roy Black.

The candidates urge laws that require stiff prison sentences without the possibility of parole for specific violent crimes.

"I think that's poor legislation," Black said. He predicted the prison system eventually will reach the breaking point if an increasing number of inmates

are given long sentences with no chance of early release.

People who are inside the system are spending more time with us because of mandatory sentencing, Black said. I see that down the road as one of the major problems with our system."

Missouri's prisons currently hold more than 2,000 inmates beyond the system's designed capacity. Each month the population grows by another 75 to 100 inmates.

Missouri has mandatory sentences for capital murder, repeat sex offenses and all felonies com-

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Democrats would separate prisoners

By Carolyn Mays
Missourian staff writer

Two of the three leading candidates for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination agree that more needs to be done for Missouri's overcrowded prison system. Both say part of the answer is separating repeat offenders from first-time offenders.

Unlike the Republican candidates, the views of the two Democratic candidates, Mel Carnahan and Ken Rothman, closely parallel the views of Corrections Department Director Lee Roy Black.

The other leading Democratic contender, Norman Merrell, was unavailable for comment.

According to Black, just building more facilities to house additional inmates is not a solution to the

problems plaguing the system.

He said there must be more beds at the mental facility in Fulton, improved medical and health services for inmates, an increase in non-custody staff and changes in the mandatory criminal code.

"The mandatory criminal code does not make sense," Carnahan agreed. "It should be used more sparingly because it is increasing the prison population. Most will never get out."

Rothman said that "one of the main problems is that the state is failing the prisoners. Statistics show that two-thirds will be sent back to prison, we need to do a better job of training. Some leave the prison worse

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